

# Borough of Rocky Hill

## Council Minutes

April 5, 2004

In the absence of Mayor Nolan, a regular meeting of the Rocky Hill Borough Council was called to order by Council President Peggy Harris at 7:30 P.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our Country and a moment of silent meditation. It was announced that this meeting has been advertised in the Somerset Messenger Gazette issue of December 6, 2003 in accordance with “The Open Public Meetings Act”.

### ***Roll Call:***

#### **Present**

- Mr. Richard Batchelder
- Mr. Martin Engelbrecht
- Ms. Peggy Harris
- Mr. George Morren

#### ***Absent***

- Ms. Connie Hallman
- Mr. Edward Zimmerman

### ***Minutes***

The minutes of the March 15, 2004 meeting of the Rocky Hill Borough Council were approved with a motion by Mr. Morren, second by Mr. Batchelder. On a roll call vote Ms. Harris and Mr. Morren voted aye. Mr. Batchelder and Mr. Engelbrecht abstained.

The minutes of the Executive Session of March 15, 2004 were approved as presented with a motion by Mr. Morren, second by Mr. Batchelder. On a roll call vote Ms. Harris and Mr. Morren voted aye. Mr. Batchelder and Mr. Engelbrecht abstained.

The minutes of the March 26, 2004 Special Meeting of the Rocky Hill Borough Council were approved as presented with a motion by Mr. Morren, second by Mr. Batchelder. On a roll call vote all present voted aye.

The minutes of the Executive Session of March 26, 2004 were approved as presented with a motion by Mr. Morren, second by Mr. Batchelder. On a roll call vote all present voted aye.

The minutes of the March 29, 2004 Special Meeting of the Rocky Hill Borough Council were approved as presented with a motion by Mr. Morren, second by Mr. Batchelder. On a roll call vote all present voted aye.

### ***Public Comment***

Mr. Robotti asked if someone who abstained from voting could move or second a motion. It was determined they could.

Mr. Moore asked about what appears to be boxes around the trees in front of the Post Office and if they presented a hazard? Ms Harris will check out the boxes around the trees.

### ***Engineer's Report***

A copy of the report is on file with the Borough Clerk.

Mr. Tanner stated the lawn maintenance contract with Mr. Kessler was for two years if both parties agreed to the second year. Mr. Kessler is willing to complete the second year of the contract but would need an increase of 5% to cover increased fuel and insurance costs. After some discussion it was decided that it was in the Borough's best interest to approve the increase for the second year.

Mr. Engelbrecht moved, second by Mr. Batchelder to approve the Lawn Contract with Mr. John Kessler for the 2004 season with a 5% increase in cost. On a roll call vote all present voted aye.

Mr. Tanner said the paint appears to be coming off some of the grid work along the intersections of Rt. 518. Mr. Tanner will write a letter to the County requesting the intersection grid work be repainted. He stated the DOT Grant request for traffic calming in the Borough has not been approved ; however it was said there is money in the 2004 budget to pay for project if a grant is not received.

Mr. Batchelder moved, second by Mr. Morren to authorize the Engineer to proceed with design standards and prepare plans for bidding. On a roll call vote all present voted aye.

Mr. Tanner said he had sent a letter to the Federal EPA expressing Rocky Hill's concerns with the EPA'S plans to address the TCE Problem in Rocky Hill and Montgomery Twp. and asked that they come to a public meeting in Rocky Hill to explain what they are going to do and answer Rocky Hill Borough's concerns.

Mr. Robotti expressed his displeasure with the intersection grids along Rt. 518.

Ms. Harris said Mr. Amorosa, County Engineer, is aware of the problem and the county is working to correct it.

### ***Public Hearing and Final Adoption of the 2004 Municipal Budget.***

Ms. Harris opened the Public Hearing the 2004 Municipal Budget. There was no public comment and the Public Hearing was closed.

Mr. Batchelder moved, second by Mr. Engelbrecht a RESOLUTION to amend the 2004 Municipal Budget. On a roll call vote all present voted aye. See appendix #1 for the Resolution.

Mr. Batchelder moved, second by Mr. Morren a RESOLUTION to adopt the 2004 Municipal Budget. On a roll call vote all present voted aye. See appendix #2 for the Resolution.

## **Bill List**

Mr. Batchelder presented the following RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS THE TREASURER HAS CERTIFIED THAT SUFFICIENT FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE TO PAY SAID VOUCHERS: BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT THE FOLLOWING VOUCHERS BE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT. Second by Mr. Engelbrecht. On a roll call vote all present voted aye. See appendix #3 for the Bill List.

## **Committee reports**

**Administration & Records:** No report.

**Buildings & Grounds:** Mr. Morren read a report from Mr. Zimmerman. The sandbox and material has been removed by the Nursery School and a new one will be installed soon. The new parts for the Court Adm. Door have been ordered and will be installed soon. There was a County Park Committee Meeting and things are moving along and if a budget is approved by both towns work should begin in the fall. The town can use community service people from the County and insurance is not a problem.

**Finance & Insurance:** Mr. Batchelder stated we have a 2004 budget and he asked that questions from the press concerning budget items be directed to him for answers. He said he is working on QAlert a method of allowing citizens to e-mail requests to the proper government people and to track the request until completed.

**Public Safety/ Emergency Services:** Mr. Morren said six parking tickets were issued during March and the Constables are helping with Municipal Court. Mr. Morren said he received a letter from the Court Adm. Asking for a salary increase to \$1000.00 per month. Borough Council said the budget is set for 2004 and there is not funding to provide for the increase requested.

**Streets & Roads:** Ms. Harris stated Castoro & Co. completed the final repair to pavement along Crescent Avenue from the recent water main break. County Road Dept. has been informed of several pot holes in Borough and County Roads. The pedestrian Cross Walk Signs are ordered and should be installed soon.

**Water, Sewer, & Environmental Protection:** Mr. Engelbrecht said there were no water leaks during the month of March and the painting of the Pump House is complete. The 2003 Water Report will be issued soon.

**Council representative to Planning Board:** Ms. Harris stated the Planning heard an informal plan request from Ms. Land 49 Crescent Avenue and reviewed Ordinance 8-04 and return to Borough Council with no changes.

**Zoning Official:** Mr. Raffaelli's report is on file with the Clerk.

Mr. Engelbrecht reported the Board of Health met and decided not to contract with Montgomery Twp. for Health Services for the year 2004, but to approve a one year contract with South Brunswick Twp. for \$20,000.00 with a thirty day cancellation clause for 2004.

Mr. Engelbrecht moved, second by Mr. Morren to approve the one year Health Services Contract with South Brunswick Twp. for the year 2004 at a cost of \$200,000.00 with a thirty day cancellation clause. On a roll call vote all present voted aye.

Ms Harris reported that South Bound Brook Police issued 225 summonses in the month of March in Rocky Hill. She said they will be holding a child safety seat demonstration and will be conducting pedestrian safety patrols in the Borough.

Ms. Crane reported the Shade Tree Commission has been active and a memorial tree will be planted at Panicaro Park in memory of Dorothy & Raymond Whitlock. The funds to pay for the tree were provided Toby Whitlock and Hope Lovering. Some landscaping is needed at Borough Hall and the quote received was \$2100.00. She also said professional maintenance is needed at Crescent Point Park and the quote for that work is \$1500.00. The planters along Rt. 518 will be filled with flowers soon and Ms. Crane asked residents who live near the planters to please water the flowers this summer. Ms. Crane thanked Borough Council for there support of the Shade Tree Commission and its work.

## **Special Business**

Ms. Harris opened the Public Hearing on ORDINANCE 6-04 AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE STATUTORY AUTHORITY OF UNITED TELEPHONE OF NEW JERSEY. There was no public comment and the Public Hearing was closed.

Mr. Morren moved, second by Mr. Batchelder to adopt Ordinance 6-04 in final form. On a roll call vote all present voted aye.

Ms Harris opened the Public Hearing of ORDINANCE 7-04 AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF ROCKY HILL. There was no public comment and the Public Hearing was closed.

Mr. Batchelder moved, second by Mr. Morren to adopt in final form Ordinance 7-04. On a roll call vote all present voted aye.

Mr. Batchelder moved, second by Mr. Engelbrecht the appointment of Ms Donna Griffiths as Deputy Borough Clerk through December 31, 2004. On a roll call vote all present voted aye.

## **Communications**

They were discussed and ordered filed.

## **Unfinished Business**

Council decided to have the brush picked up with the spring clean up on May 1, 2004.

The quote pertaining to building cleaning at Borough Hall will be discussed at the next meeting.

***New Business***

Mr. Batchelder moved, second by Mr. Morren the SALARY RESOLUTION for the year 2004. On a roll call vote all present voted aye. See appendix #4 for the Resolution.

***Public Comment***

Nothing at this time.

***Adjournment***

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04PM with a motion by Mr. Batchelder, second by Mr. Engelbrecht. On a voice vote all present voted aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond E. Whitlock Jr.  
Borough Clerk